

§ 250.459

and additives in the drilling fluid report.

(c) If you do not have sufficient quantities of drilling fluid and drilling fluid material to maintain well control, you must suspend drilling operations.

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003]

§ 250.459 What are the safety requirements for drilling fluid-handling areas?

You must classify drilling fluid-handling areas according to API RP 500, Recommended Practice for Classification of Locations for Electrical Installations at Petroleum Facilities, Classified as Class I, Division 1 and Division 2 (incorporated by reference as specified in § 250.198); or API RP 505, Recommended Practice for Classification of Locations for Electrical Installations at Petroleum Facilities, Classified as Class I, Zone 0, Zone 1, and Zone 2 (incorporated by reference as specified in § 250.198). In areas where dangerous concentrations of combustible gas may accumulate, you must install and maintain a ventilation system and gas monitors. Drilling fluid-handling areas must have the following safety equipment:

(a) A ventilation system capable of replacing the air once every 5 minutes or 1.0 cubic feet of air-volume flow per minute, per square foot of area, whichever is greater. In addition:

(1) If natural means provide adequate ventilation, then a mechanical ventilation system is not necessary;

(2) If a mechanical system does not run continuously, then it must activate when gas detectors indicate the presence of 1 percent or more of combustible gas by volume; and

(3) If discharges from a mechanical ventilation system may be hazardous, then you must maintain the drilling fluid-handling area at a negative pressure. You must protect the negative pressure area by using at least one of the following: a pressure-sensitive alarm, open-door alarms on each access to the area, automatic door-closing devices, air locks, or other devices approved by the District Supervisor;

(b) Gas detectors and alarms except in open areas where adequate ventilation is provided by natural means. You must test and recalibrate gas detectors

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quarterly. No more than 90 days may elapse between tests;

(c) Explosion-proof or pressurized electrical equipment to prevent the ignition of explosive gases. Where you use air for pressuring equipment, you must locate the air intake outside of and as far as practicable from hazardous areas; and

(d) Alarms that activate when the mechanical ventilation system fails.

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OTHER DRILLING REQUIREMENTS

§ 250.460 What are the requirements for conducting a well test?

(a) If you intend to conduct a well test, you must include your projected plans for the test with your APD (form MMS-123) or in an Application for Permit to Modify (APM) (form MMS-124). Your plans must include at least the following information:

(1) Estimated flowing and shut-in tubing pressures;

(2) Estimated flow rates and cumulative volumes;

(3) Time duration of flow, buildup, and drawdown periods;

(4) Description and rating of surface and subsurface test equipment;

(5) Schematic drawing, showing the layout of test equipment;

(6) Description of safety equipment, including gas detectors and fire-fighting equipment;

(7) Proposed methods to handle or transport produced fluids; and

(8) Description of the test procedures.

(b) You must give the District Supervisor at least 24-hours notice before starting a well test.

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§ 250.461 What are the requirements for directional and inclination surveys?

For this subpart, MMS classifies a well as vertical if the calculated average of inclination readings does not exceed 3 degrees from the vertical.

(a) *Survey requirements for a vertical well.* (1) You must conduct inclination surveys on each vertical well and record the results. Survey intervals may not exceed 1,000 feet during the normal course of drilling;

(2) You must also conduct a directional survey that provides both inclination and azimuth, and digitally record the results in electronic format:

- (i) Within 500 feet of setting surface or intermediate casing;
- (ii) Within 500 feet of setting any liner; and
- (iii) When you reach total depth.

(b) *Survey requirements for directional well.* You must conduct directional surveys on each directional well and digitally record the results. Surveys must give both inclination and azimuth at intervals not to exceed 500 feet during the normal course of drilling. Intervals during angle-changing portions of the hole may not exceed 100 feet.

(c) *Measurement while drilling.* You may use measurement-while-drilling technology if it meets the requirements of this section.

(d) *Composite survey requirements.* (1) Your composite directional survey must show the interval from the bottom of the conductor casing to total depth. In the absence of conductor casing, the survey must show the interval from the bottom of the drive or structural casing to total depth; and

(2) You must correct all surveys to Universal-Transverse-Mercator-Grid-north or Lambert-Grid-north after making the magnetic-to-true-north correction. Surveys must show the magnetic and grid corrections used and include a listing of the directionally computed inclinations and azimuths.

(e) If you drill within 500 feet of an adjacent lease, the Regional Supervisor may require you to furnish a copy of the well's directional survey to the affected leaseholder. This could occur when the adjoining leaseholder requests a copy of the survey for the protection of correlative rights.

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§ 250.462 What are the requirements for well-control drills?

You must conduct a weekly well-control drill with each drilling crew. Your drill must familiarize the crew with its roles and functions so that all crew members can perform their duties promptly and efficiently.

(a) *Well-control drill plan.* You must prepare a well control drill plan for

each well. Your plan must outline the assignments for each crew member and establish times to complete each portion of the drill. You must post a copy of the well control drill plan on the rig floor or bulletin board.

(b) *Timing of drills.* You must conduct each drill during a period of activity that minimizes the risk to drilling operations. The timing of your drills must cover a range of different operations, including drilling with a diverter, on-bottom drilling, and tripping.

(c) *Recordkeeping requirements.* For each drill, you must record the following in the driller's report:

- (1) The time to be ready to close the diverter or BOP system; and
- (2) The total time to complete the entire drill.

(d) *MMS ordered drill.* An MMS authorized representative may require you to conduct a well control drill during an MMS inspection. The MMS representative will consult with your on-site representative before requiring the drill.

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§ 250.463 Who establishes field drilling rules?

(a) The District Supervisor may establish field drilling rules different from the requirements of this subpart when geological and engineering information shows that specific operating requirements are appropriate. You must comply with field drilling rules and nonconflicting requirements of this subpart. The District Supervisor may amend or cancel field drilling rules at any time.

(b) You may request the District Supervisor to establish, amend, or cancel field drilling rules.

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APPLYING FOR A PERMIT TO MODIFY AND WELL RECORDS

§ 250.465 When must I submit an Application for Permit to Modify (APM) or an End of Operations Report to MMS?

(a) You must submit an APM (form MMS-124) or an End of Operations Report (form MMS-125) and other materials to the Regional Supervisor as